further reported that over 90 per cent of SHGs are exclusively women groups.

Tax cut on raw materials for hardware sector

†3144. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that hardware entrepreneurs have made a demand to provide concessions in tax on raw materials and spare parts;

(b) if so, whether Government have so far considered this demand; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, by when, the said demand is likely to be considered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government had received representations from industry association requesting for customs duty concessions on raw materials, inputs and Capital equipment for the IT/Electronics hardware sector.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. In this year's Budget Government have reduced the basic customs duty on 43 specified categories of raw materials and inputs for the IT/Electronics hardware sector from 25—35% to 5% adv. In addition, the Government have also reduced the basic customs duty on 24 specified categories of Capital equipment including moulds, dies and tools for the hardward sector from 25% adv. to 15% adv. Furthermore, the basic customs duty on 56 specified Capital equipment for the hardware sector has been reduced from 5% adv. to Nil.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.